

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 VO-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /156 W

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R 182030Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9082

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4304

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR

SUBJECT: PQD RESUMES FORMAL CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY

1. THE PARTIDO QUISQUAYANO DEMOCRATA (PQD) HAS APPARENTLY QUIETLY ABANDONED ITS POLICY OF NO CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY WHICH IT HAS OFFICIALLY MAINTAINED FOR THE PAST TEN MONTHS. ON DEC 18, 1972, THE PQD SENT A NOTE TO THE SANTO DOMINGO DAILY EL CARIBE ANNOUNCING THAT IT WOULD HENCEFORTH "SUSPEND ALL RELATIONS AND CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PQD AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN OUR COUNTRY." THE ACTION WAS APPARENTLY IN RETALIATION FOR USG REFUSAL TO GRANT A US VISA TO PQD PRESIDENT EX-GENERAL ELFAS WESSIN Y WESSIN, CURRENTLY LIVING IN EXILE IN MADRID. INFORMAL, LOW-LEVEL CONTACTS WERE MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON A STRICTLY "PERSONAL BASIS" SINCE LAST DECEMBER.

2. THE FIRST INDICATION OF A REVISED PQD POSITION VIS-A-VIS CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSY WAS DEMONSTRATED ON OCTOBER 15 WHEN TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED ON PQD SECRETARY GENERAL JULIO CAMPILLO PEREZ IN HIS SANTIAGO OFFICE. CAMPILLO AT THAT TIME EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR MORE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY AND SAID THAT HE AND THE PARTY WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE EMBASSY IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. ON OCT 17, ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER MET IN SANTO DMOINGO WITH PQD VICE PRESIDENT LEONTE BERNARD VASQUEZ WHO SAID THAT THE

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PQD LEADERSHIP "WOULD BE PLEASED" TO MEET WITH ANY

EMBASSY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR. BERNARD ALSO EXPRESSED THE DESIRE FOR MORE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY. IN NEITHER OF THE TWO CONVERSATIONS DID THE QUESTION OF A VISA FOR WESSIN Y WESSIN ARISE.

COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR PRECISELY WHY THE PQD HAS QUIETLY DROPPED ITS PROHIBITION ON PARTY CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSY. IT MAY BE THAT THE PQD LEADERSHIP FELT THAT ITS POLICY WAS OBVIOUSLY INEFFECTIVE IN FORCING THE US TO REVERSE ITS POSITION ON THE WESSIN VISA ISSUE. MORE-OVER, AS THE ONLY RECOGNIZED PARTY WITHOUT NORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSY, THE PQD MAY HAVE FELT SOMEWHAT ISOLATED IN THE DOMINICAN POLITICAL ARENA WHERE TO BE ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH THE EMBASSY IS USUALLY (BUT NOT ALWAYS) REGARDED AS AN ASSET. AT ANY RATE, THE ISSUE OF A US VISA FOR WESSIN SEEMS TO HAVE RECEDED INTO THE BACKGROUND, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.

HURWITCH

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